

Amendments to the specification

Please amend paragraphs 16 and 19 as follows:

[Para 16] The roller-top conveyor belt is flanked on opposite sides by exit conveyors 34, 35.

The exit conveyors shown in this example are conventional gravity-advance roller conveyors.

The exit conveyors include a downwardly sloping frame supporting a plurality of consecutive rolls 36 that are free to rotate about their axes to discharge articles in the direction of arrows 38 and 39. A guide 40 is suspended above the outer conveying surface of the roller-top belt. The guide traverses the width of the belt from the first side to the second side. Opposite first and second ends 42, 43 of the guide are attached to arms 44, 45. The guide shown includes rollers [[46]] 41 that protrude beyond both sides of the guide. The rollers preferably rotate about generally vertical axes to provide a low-friction sliding rolling surface to articles conveyed on the generally horizontal roller-top belt. The guide may be realized in many ways. One way is as an Intralox Series 900 Roller Top belt. The guide forms a generally vertical wall that can intercept articles advancing along the conveyor line.

[Para 19] Because the guide has to span a greater distance when blocking the conveying path, as in FIGS. 2A and 2C, than it does when in the non-blocking position of FIG. 2B, the guide preferably has an automatically adjustable length. One or more elastic panels, such as end panels 56 (FIGS. 1 and 3), connected between each arm 44, 45 and the nearest end of the guide, allow[[s]] the guide to stretch into its expanded length for blocking and retract to its relaxed length for bypassing.